

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 HEW-04

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 ABF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W

----- 123294

R 130634Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5761

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3344

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNRWA, UN, KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA

REF: (A) STATE 166372, (B) KUWAIT 3224, (C) KUWAIT 3115

1. IN EFFORT TO FOLLOWUP ON GOK CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA, I TELEPHONED MINSTATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS ABDULAZIZ HUSAIN JULY 12 TO SEEK THIS INFORMATION, IN ABSENCE OF FONMIN AND HIS ASSISTANCES WHO HAD DEPARTED FOR CAIRO ARAB LEAGUE MEETING. HUSAIN CONFIRMED THAT CABINET HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION BUT SAID THAT IT HAD ASKED FONMINISTRY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION RE POSITION OTHER ARAB STATES HAD TAKEN ON MATTER BEFORE COMING TO FINAL DECISION. FONMIN IS EXPECTED TO PREPARE REPORT IN TIME FOR CABINET MEETING JULY 18.

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2. I DREW TO HASAIN'S ATTENTION THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD ALREADY AGREED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL 10 MILLION DOLLARS AND THAT USG WAS PROVIDING SUBSTANTIAL SUM ADDITIONAL TO ITS ALREADY LARGE CONTRIBUTION. I ALSO NOTED THAT MY INFORMATION WAS THAT OTHER GULF STATES WERE AWAITING KUWAIT'S DECISION BEFORE DECIDING AMOUNT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION.

3. HUSAIN DID NOT SEEM TO BE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA AND NOTED THAT, IF A REASONABLY LARGE SUM WERE AGREED UPON BY CABINET, IT WOULD HAVE TO RECEIVE APPROVAL OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. SINCE ASSEMBLY WILL BE ADJOURNED AT END OF MONTH, IT WAS HARDLY LIKELY THAT THEIR APPROVAL COULD BE OBTAINED BEFORE FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS. I EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT AT THIS PROSPECT AND IRGED HUSAIN TO ENCOURAGE CABINET TO GIVE THIS MATTER URGENT ATTENTION IN VIEW OF THE DESPERATE NEED OF REFUGEES IN LEBANON.

4. DURING COURTESY CALL ON DEPPRIMIN AND MININFO SHAIKH JABAR AL-ALI AL-SABAH THAT SAME MORNING, I ALSO RAISED MATTER WITH HIM. I ENCOUNTERED SAME LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FROM JABER AL-ALI WHO NOTED THAT KUWAIT WOULD CERTAINLY BE PREPARED TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR ASSISTANCE TO THOSE SUFFERING IN LEBANON, BUT ONLY AFTER THE CURRENT CONFLICT HAD COME TO AN END.

5. I WILL PURSUE MATTER AS THE OCCASION OFFERS, BUT I FEAR THAT I CANNOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN A TOKEN CONTRIBUTION FROM KUWAIT AT MOST.
MAESTRONE

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